



California Environmental Protection Agency

NEWS RELEASE

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

For Immediate Release

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RIVERSIDE – The County of Orange – Public Facilities and Resources Department has paid a \$35,000 penalty and waived their right to a public hearing regarding the unauthorized discharge of polluted storm water and non-storm water into Anaheim Bay on February 8.

The payment was in response to a complaint issued by the Executive Officer of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. The complaint proposed a penalty of \$50,000, with \$15,000 of that amount suspended provided that the county implements an employee training program to prevent a reoccurrence. The County paid the \$35,000 and agreed to the suspension conditions.

“This Regional Board is committed to protecting coastal water quality”, said Jerry Thibeault, Santa Ana Regional Board Executive Officer. “Those who are found to be polluting our waters will be held accountable for their actions.”

Under the Areawide Urban Storm Water Runoff Permit the County of Orange and the incorporated cities of Orange County within the Santa Ana Region are prohibited from discharging storm water that contains pollutants that have not been reduced to the maximum extent practicable.

In the case of the County of Orange, on February 8, a county maintenance crew was cleaning out a storm water lift station adjacent to the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station. While floatable trash and some sediment contained in the lift station vault were removed by vacuum truck, a significant amount of sediment and other pollutants were pumped directly into Anaheim Bay. The Naval Weapons Station Environmental Coordinator observed the black, odorous discharge and contacted the Orange County employees cleaning the lift station in an effort to stop the discharge. The County employees failed to stop the discharge and it is estimated that a minimum of 11,000 gallons of polluted storm water and non-storm water were discharged into Anaheim Bay. Samples of the discharge, collected by Naval Weapons Station personnel, contained elevated concentrations of total coliform and fecal coliform bacteria, zinc, copper, lead, chromium and sediment.

The Santa Ana Regional Board is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency.

